Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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2012 Legislative Committee

Written Testimony Government Administration and Elections Committee March 9, 2012

Good morning distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Antoinette C. Spinelli and I am the Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association and the Town Clerk of Waterbury. Our Committee wishes to express concerns with HB5398 – An Act Modifying Records Retention Requirements for Certain Records in Electronic Form.

Town Clerks are entrusted with the safekeeping of our municipality's most important records. Many of these records are permanent records such as land records and vital records and are required to be kept in paper format. Town Clerks trust and rely on well-established guidelines set forth by the State of Connecticut - Office of the Public Records Administrator to ensure these records will be available to future generations.

Security of these important records is not only vital to our municipalities but also to the citizens that we serve. To ensure that these important documents will be safe and secure it is necessary that the retention and storage meets with the standards set forth by the State of Connecticut's Public Records Administrator who has the expertise in this field to properly guide us and make changes to these standards when the opportunity is right.

Thank you for your consideration on this bill.

Respectfully submitted, Antoinette C. Spinelli, Waterbury Town Clerk Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee